

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 00693 011734Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 PRS-01 SSO-00 L-03 SS-15

PM-05 IO-14 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00

DODE-00 /064 W

-----117906 011738Z /41

O R 011657Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5504

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 0693

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PN

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING FROM USIS/PANAMA O R 011656Z FEB 78 SENT ACTION USINFO

WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:

QUOTE UNCLAS

MEDIA REACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A

1-PANAMA CITY--GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED TABLOID CRITICA FEBRUARY 1
CARRIED YET ANOTHER LEAD EDIT ON THE TREATIES IN THE SENATE, THIS
TIME TO EXPLAIN THE SFRC'S DECISION NOT TO RECOMMEND AN AMENDMENT
TO THE TREATY OF NEUTRALITY. ACCORDING TO CRITICA: "OVER THE
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WEEKEND, PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS ESCOBAR AND ROYO TOLD THE VISITING
SENATORS THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO INTRODUCE THE TWO AMENDMENTS
INTO THE TREATY OF NEUTRALITY WITHOUT A NEW PLEBISCITE. THEREFORE
THE SFRC DECIDED NOT TO AMEND THE PACTS IN THE WAY THEY HAD APPROVED
BUT TO INCORPORATE A CHANGE INTO THE TEXT OF EACH OF THE ARTICLES
AS THE DEMOCRATIC SENATOR FRANK CHURCH HAD SUGGESTED."

2-CRITICA CONTINUES: "IN THIS WAY THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT AMEND THE NEUTRALITY PACT. IT DECIDES, SIMPLY, THAT THE AGREEMENTS BY TORRIJOS AND CARTER OF LAST OCTOBER WOULD BE SEPARATELY INTO THE TREATY UNDER DISCUSSION."

3-SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA FEBRUARY 1 ALSO COMMENTS ON THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IN ITS LEAD EDIT, FINDING THAT THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN THE MEMORANDUM AND ITS ADDITION TO THE TREATY IS NOT OF THE LEAST IMPORTANCE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. LA ESTRELLA BEGINS, STRANGELY ENOUGH, BY CONFESSING THAT IT HAD NOT READ THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE MEMORANDUM UNTIL RECENTLY. (STRANGE BECAUSE LA ESTRELLA CARRIED THE TEXT IN ITS OCTOBER 15, 1977 EDITION-USIS). BUT AFTER FINALLY READING IT, SAYS LA ESTRELLA, "WE MUST CONFESS OUR GREAT PERPLEXITY BECAUSE IN THE FAMOUS 'MEMORANDUM' NOTHING NEW IS SAID. NOTHING THAT IS NOT DULY AND CLEARLY CONSECRATED IN THE TREATIES."

4-LA ESTRELLA CONTINUES: "WHETHER OR NOT THE FAMOUS 'MEMORANDUM' IS ADDED OR NOT TO THE TREATIES, IS NOT, IN OUR JUDGEMENT, OF THE LEAST IMPORTANCE, IN THAT IT DOESN'T ADD OR SUBTRACT ANYTHING TO THAT WHICH WAS WRITTEN OR SIGNED AT THE TIME. THEREFORE, WE DON'T BELIEVE THAT THERE CAN BE ANY CONTROVERSY OVER SUCH A POINT." ITEM UNQUOTE JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
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TAGS: SOPN, PN
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